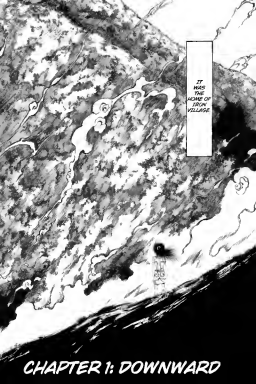


*IN DAYS LONG PAST, BETWEEN THE AGE OF THE GODS
AND THE AGE OF HUMANITY...*



THERE WAS A GREAT MOUNTAIN IN THE SHAPE OF A SERPENT.





IT
WAS
THE
MOUNT OF
IRON
VILLAGE

CHAPTER 1: DOWNWARD





SHR!



IT
MIGHT
JUST BE
AN OLD
LECH.



YOU'RE
MY DAD!

ACT LIKE
IT FOR
ONCE!

...IF THE
WIND PICKS
UP AGAIN,
WHY NOT
LET THE
SPIRIT TAKE
A LONGER
PEEK?



SHOO



THE TATAMI
IS A TYPE
OF FURNACE
THAT USES
NATURAL
WIND.



STRONG
WIND IS
REQUIRED
TO
CREATE
THE HEAT
NEEDED
TO MELT
IRON.



IRON ORE
AND IRON
SAND ARE
PUT INSIDE
THE
EARTHEN
FURNACE
AND BURNED
WITH
CHARCOAL
FOR MANY
DAYS TO
REMOVE
IMPURITIES.



SO
TATARA
FURNACES
ARE BUILT
IN WINDY
PLACES.



IT MAKES
ME
WORRY
THAT THE
SPIRIT
OF THE
WIND
ACTUALLY
WILL
COME AND
TAKE HER
ONE DAY.



THE
WIND
REALLY
DOES
LIKE
HER.



I CAN SEE
THE LOWER
VILLAGE
DOWNWARD
FROM
HERE.



SOMETIMES
FRIENDS
INVITE ME
TO GO WITH
THEM.



I HAVEN'T BEEN
THERE FOR AS
LONG AS I CAN
REMEMBER.



DAD
ASKED
ME TO
RUN AN
ERRAND
THERE
FOR HIM.

WILL
HE
BE
GONE
FOR
GOOD
THIS
TIME?
I
DON'T
KNOW.
I
WISH
I
COULD
KNOW.



BUT EVER SINCE MOM DIED, I FEEL
GUILTY ABOUT LEAVING DAD BEHIND
WHILE HE TOILS AWAY ENDLESSLY
WITH IRON.





HEE
HEE
HEE!



AFTER
THAT, I
WANT
YOU TO
STAY
THERE.

DON'T
COME
HOME.



GOT
IT.

TAKE
THESE
THREE
BLADES
TO THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.



WELL.

I'M
GOING
NOW.



I
SAID
I'VE
GOT
IT.

WAIT
FOR
ME TO
CONTACT
YOU



JUST TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF.



DON'T
DO ANY-
THING
CRAZY,
DAD.

OWAIT



SEE
YOU.



THE PEOPLE
OF THE
VILLAGES
ONCE LIVED
TOGETHER,
FARMING AND
HUNTING ON
THE PLAINS.

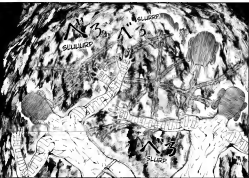


ONE VILLAGE
HAD BEEN
DIVIDED INTO
TWO.

UPPER
VILLAGE

LOWER
VILLAGE









EEK!

NICE
SWORD
YOU'VE
GOT,
THERE.



WASH-
MUCHO-
NORI



WASH-
MUCHO-
NORI



IT'S
FROM
A
BIG
SLICE.

I KNOW
I COULD
SMELL
ANYONE'S
BLOOD



ARE YOU
TAKING IT
TO THE
LOWER
VILLAGE?

DID YOUR
FATHER
SUZUMURI
FORGE THAT
BLADE?



AND
I DON'T
SEE YOU
GUYS
TAKING
ANYTHING
DOWN THE
MOUNTAIN.



IF YOU
JUST
GIVE IT
TO THE
CHIEF,
HE'LL
TAKE ALL
OF THAT
TO THE
VILLAGE
FOR YOU.





AND
YOU'VE
HAD ME
MAKING
WEAPONS,
NOT
TOOLS.



NONE OF
THE
WORK
I'VE
GIVEN
TO YOU
HAS
ARRIVED
IN THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.



THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
BUILDING
UP A
SUPPLY OF
ARMS.
ISN'T IT?

YOU
PLAN TO
ATTACK
THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.



AND THAT
MEANS WE
SIT
CLOSER TO
POWER
THAN
THOSE
PEASANTS
IN THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.

*IRON
IS
POWER.*



I WANT TO
SEE THE
WORK OF
OUR BEST
SMITH FOR
MYSELF.



LET ME
TAKE A
LOOK
AT IT.



IN THAT
CASE...

HMM.

ALL
RIGHT.



SORRY.
I'M IN A
RUSH.



I'M
RATHER
PROUD
OF
THIS
ONE.

WE'LL
GLASH
OUR
BLADES
TO
COMPARE
THEM.

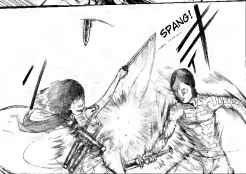
HEY!
HOLD
ON!



I'LL JUST
HAVE TO
TEST THE
BLADE I
MADE
AGAINST
IT.

SHINK

WHA?!



I FELT IT, SO I KNOW NOW.

HA.

YES.



I REALLY WAS PROUD OF THAT SWORD.

... THAT HURTS.



IT'S A
VERY
FINE
BLADE.

I
DON'T
HAVE
TO
SWING
IT TO
UNDER-
STAND



COME
ON,
BLADE!

WAIT,
DON'T
GO
YET!



I
DON'T
HAVE
TIME TO
PLAY
WITH
YOU.

GO
YAT!



JUST
LET
ME
GO!

ADONAIRO
IS ALWAYS
LOOKING
FOR
TROUBLE.
BUT TODAY
HE'S WORSE
THAN I'VE
EVER SEEN
HIM!





DELIVER
THE
BLADES
TO THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.



THE
CHIEF
AND HIS
SON ARE
ALWAYS
ACTING
FISHY.

...
ARE
YOU
JUST
BEING
PARA-
NOID?

(THEY'RE
NEVER UP TO
ANY GOOD.)



AND TELL
THEM I
SUSPECT
CHIEF
IKIDUKI
IS
MOVING
AGAINST
THEM.



THERE'S
THE
VILLAGE
ARMORY.



I'LL
STAY
HERE
AND
KEEP
MY
EYES
OPEN.

SO
WHAT
IS
YOUR
PLAN,
DAD?



BUT IF I
TELL THEM
AND IT'S
NOTHING,
IT'LL BE
SO EMBAR-
RASSING!

JUST
TELL
THEM.



I GAVE
THEM TO
THE CHIEF
BEFORE I
SUSPECTED
ANYTHING.

SOME OF
MY
BLADES
ARE
STILL
INSIDE
IT.



BUT...

IF MY
HANDWORK
IS GOING TO
BE TURNED
AGAINST MY
FELLOW
VILLAGERS...

I HAVE
TO PUT
A STOP
TO IT.



AND THAT
MEANS WE
SIT
CLOSER TO
POWER
THAN
THOSE
PEASANTS
IN THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.

IRON
IS
POWER.

THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
BUILDING
UP A
SUPPLY
OF ARMS.
ISN'T
IT?

YOU
PLAN TO
ATTACK
THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.

I HAVE
TO PUT
A STOP
TO IT.

IF MY
HANDIWORK IS
GOING TO BE
TURNED
AGAINST MY
FELLOW
VILLAGERS...

AKOYA.

**DELIVER THE
BLADES TO
THE LOWER
VILLAGE.**

**CHAPTER 2:
GROUCH
MOUNTAIN**



IT'S
EXCITING
TO THINK
THAT MY
SWORDS
WILL BE
TESTED IN
BATTLE!



HA
HA!
OH,
WELL!

IF WE HAD
SPOKEN
EARLIER,
THERE WOULD
HAVE BEEN
NO NEED
TO SEND
AKOYA TO
THE LOWER
VILLAGES.



HA
HA
HA
HA!

WONDERFUL!

YOU'RE A
LOVER OF
IRON, SO I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
UNDERSTAND.



LOOK,
SUZUNARI.

SEE THE FIRE
FROM THE
FURNACES?



YES,
LET'S!

SO,
HOW
ABOUT
GOING TO
THE
ARMORY
TO GAZE
UPON THE
LOVELY
ITEMS
INSIDE?



LONG AGO
IN THE WEST,
THERE LIVED A
SERPENT
CALLED THE
GROCHI THAT
HAD EIGHT
HEADS AND
TAILS
AND FED
UPON
MAIDENS.



DO
YOU
KNOW
HOW OUR
FURNACES
CAME
TO HAVE
THEIR
SHAPE?



BUT
ONE OF ITS
SEVERED
HEADS
ESCAPED TO
THIS LAND.

A GREAT
SPIRIT
DESCENDED
DOWN FROM
THE SKY TO
SLAY IT.



IT FELL
ASLEEP HERE
TO RECOVER
ITS
STRENGTH,
BECOMING
THIS VERY
MOUNTAIN.



THE PEOPLE
WHO LIVED
HERE
MODELED
THE TATARA
FURNACE
AFTER THE
BLUTHERED
SERPENT.



OUR
ANCESTORS
MIMICKED
THE
SPIRIT
AND DUG
FOR IRON
IN THE
OROCHI'S
BODY.



THE
HEAVENLY
SPIRIT
FOUND A
BRILLIANT
IRON
BLADE IN
ONE OF THE
OROCHI'S
TAILS.



IT IS AS
THOUGH THE
OROCHI WAS THE
EMBODIMENT OF
IRON!

WE TRULY LIVE
IN A BLESSED
LAND!



IT IS A
LAND OF
POWER!



IT'S THE POWER OF
THE SCOPS!

SOON WE'LL RULE
OVER THE LOWER
VILLAGE, AND THEN
WE'LL SHOW OUR
MIGHT TO THE
VILLAGES AROUND
THE LAKE!



ALL
SCABBARDS
I HAD.



ALL
SWORDS
I HAD.

ONE...
TWO...
THREE...

SEVEN
TOTAL.



SHE'S
GOT
THREE
SWORDS!



THREE.

TWO.

ONE.







**GIVE
THOSE
BACK!**



**THEY'RE
MINE!**



**DON'T
LET
HIM
GET
AWAY!**

**GRAB
HIM!**

LISTEN!

THE CHIEF
PLANS TO
ATTACK
THE LOWER
VILLAGE!

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
WANT?



I REALLY
DID WANT
YOU TO
JOIN ME.

BUT...



I
KNEW
IT
WOULD
COME
TO
THIS,
SUZU-
NARI.



I
KNEW
IT.

HMPH.
I
KNEW
IT.



BUT
NOW
IT IS
TOO
LATE.



**BECAUSE
I DID
LOVE
YOUR
SWORDS!**





YOUR
BLADE
AGAINST
MINE!

NOW
WE'LL
HAVE
A TEST!



I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO KILL
THE CHIEF!

I
CAN'T
RUN...



OKAY?

DON'T
DO
ANY-
THING
CRAZY,
DAD.



HM?

YOUR
SWORDS
ARE THE
BEST IN
THE
VILLAGE.
RIGHT?



THAT
CARVING
SURE IS
FANCY.



COME ON!

DO YOU
WANT MY
DAD'S
SWORDS
THAT BAD?

JUST
GO
AWAY!

ABSO-
LUTELY!



SO I'M
MAKING
YOUR
SCABBARDS
THE
COOLEST
IN THE
VILLAGE
TO MATCH.

SUZUNARI'S SWORDS
ARE THE STRONGEST IN THE VILLAGE.







**LOOKS
LIKE I
LOST!**

YOU
HAD
ONE OF
MINE!

THAT'S
WHY I
SWITCHED
MY SWORDS
FOR YOURS
IN THE
ARMORY.

I JUST
KNEW
YOU'D
TRY TO
STAB
ME IN
THE
BACK.

I
KNEW
IT ALL
ALONG.

SORRY.

SORRY.

WAS
FORGED
BY YOU.

THE
SWORD
IN MY
HAND...

OH NO!





WHAT ELSE WOULD ONE EXPECT FROM THE GREAT SLENNARI?

YOURS WAS THE STRONGER BLADE.



IT'S MY SISTER, TOO.

AND NOW...



WHOOOSH



AH!

THE
WIND!

YOU'LL
NEVER
HAVE MY
FATHER'S
SWORDS!



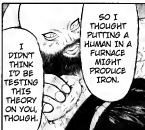


BLOOD
TASTES
OF IRON.

ACCORDING
TO MY SON



ROAR お



I
DIDN'T
THINK
I'D BE
TESTING
THIS
THEORY
ON YOU,
THOUGH.

SO I
THOUGHT
PUTTING A
HUMAN IN A
FURNACE
MIGHT
PRODUCE
IRON.



DOES THE
SPIRIT OF THE
MOUNTAIN LOVE
HER?

ROAR

...



THE
WIND
STOPPED
US.



FROM THE
MAIDEN-
EATING
CROUCH.

I TOLD
YOU
WHERE
THE
SHAPE OF THE
FURNACE
CAME FROM,
RIGHT?



I
WONDER
IF
AKOYA
CALLED
IT UP!

THIS
WIND IS
GOOD
FOR THE
FURNACE.



PERHAPS
YOUR BODY
WILL
PRODUCE
SOME
FABULOUS
IRON FOR
ME.

NOW
LET'S
SEE.



WELL...

THE
SPIRIT
THAT SLEW
THE
CROUCH
FOUND
FABULOUS
IRON IN
THE
SERPENT'S
BODY.





OOH, A
DRAGON-
FLY
!



WHO'S
THAT
GIRL?



SHOOOOO

ほ



THE
BATTLE
WILL
COME
SOON
ENOUGH.



IT'S ONLY
A FEW DAYS
UNTIL
THE WAR
BEGINS,
AS MY
FATHER
ORDERED.



THOUGH
SHE HAD
OFTEN
GAZED ON
THEM
FROM
AFAR, SHE
HADN'T
EVER
SEEN
THEM UP
CLOSE.

BUT AKOHA
HAPPILY
SKIPPED
ALONG A
RIDGE
BETWEEN
THE
FIELDS.



HES
HES
HES!

SHE CAME TO THE
RIDGE FIELDS

IT WAS A SEASON
WHEN THEY WERE
DRAINED OF
WATER AND
THERE WERE NO
GOLDEN HEADS
TO BE SEEN.

BUT
NOW















SO AKOYA
GOT AWAY
WITH
THREE OF
SUZUNARI'S
SWORDS?



FORGIVE
ME,
FATHER.



SHOULDN'T
YOU LOOK
AT THE
PERSON
YOU'RE
APOLO-
GIZING
TO?



KANA-
MURO
...



FORGIVE
ME,
FATHER.



THERE'S
LOTS OF
OTHER
IRONWEARS
DOWN HERE,
RIGHT?



BUT
IT'S
JUST
THREE
SWORDS.



I HAVE A
DELIVERY
TO MAKE.

SHOW
ME
THE
TOWN,
OKAY?



DO YOU
HAVE
SWORDS?

YEAH.
ALL OF
IT'S
FROM
THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.

YEAH.



THEY HAVE
IRONWEARS
IN THE
LOWER
VILLAGE...



*...ARE
THE ONLY
THREATS
TO US.*

*BUT
THOSE
THREE
SWORDS...*

*THE REST IS
NOTHING BUT
SCRAP.*



OOH!

**CHAPTER 4:
THREE YEARS**



WOW,
A
PIGLET!
DOES
IT
BITE?

IT'S
A
PIG
FARM.



HEY,
WHAT'S
THAT?



A
PRIVY?

WHAT'S
THAT
OVER
THE
MOAT?



HI.

HI!



THE
FASHION
IS
DIFFERENT
DOWN
HERE.

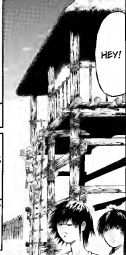
I HAVEN'T
SEEN
TATTOOS
LIKE
THAT IN
THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.



WE
DON'T
HAVE A
MOAT,
SO WE
DO IT IN
THE
RIVER.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOUR
VIL-
LAGE?

YOU DO
YOUR
BUSINESS
IN TOWN,
THEN?





HUH?



NOT MUCH
IS COMING
DOWN
THESE
DAYS.

I HEAR
THERE'S
AN ORS
SHORTAGE.

HMM?
NO,
IT CAME
DOWN
HERE A
JUST
COUPLE
MONTHS
AGO.

IS
THIS
THING
OLD?



*THIS
VILLAGE
IS IN
DANGER.*

ARE YOU
THE ONE
WHO
BEAT UP
MY SON?

HEY,
YOU!

BOOM

I'M ONE
OF THE
THREE
TOUGHEST
MEN IN
THE
VILLAGE!

MY
NAME
IS
NUZZL

HE'S
THE
FATHER
OF ONE
OF THE
KIDS
YOU
BEAT
UP.

AND
YOU
ARE?

NOW
I'LL
MAKE
YOU
PAY
FOR
IT!

YOU
HURT
MY
SON!

I'M IN
THE
TOP
THREE!

YOU SHOULD
APOLO-
GIZE!

HE'S ONE
OF THE
STRONGEST
GUYS IN
TOWN!



LET'S
SEE
HOW
YOU
LIKE
MY
IRON
SWORD!

YOU
COME
FROM
THE
IRON
VILLAGE,
DO YOU?



WHAT
THE?

WHY
DO
YOU
ASK?

WHA,
IS
THAT
THING
OLD?



HEY!
A PARENT
SHOULDN'T
BRING A
SWORD
TO A
KID'S
FIGHT!

EEK!



IT'S BRAND
NEW!

IT CAME
FROM THE
UPPER
VILLAGE
TWO
MONTHS
AGO!



SUZUNARI
FORGED
THIS
SWORD
AFTER HE
LOST HIS
WIFE AND
SPENT HIS
GRIEF IN
HIS WORK.



WE
FOUND A
WHOLE
NEW
METHOD
OF
WORKING
WITH
IRON
THREE
YEARS
AGO.



IT'S THE
FIRST
BLADE
AKOYA
MADE A
SCABBARD
FOR.



THIS IS
THE
SWORD
THAT
TAUGHT
ME
JOYS
OF
IRON'S
POWER.



HIS
KNOWLEDGE
SPREAD
THROUGH
THE
VILLAGES
AND
IMPROVED
THE WORK
OF ALL.



SUZUNARI
PUT HIS
HEART INTO
TRYING AND
RETRYING
NEW ORES,
NEW FIRING
METHODS
AND NEW
WAYS TO
TEMPER.







**THE LOWER
VILLAGE'S
IRONWORK
IS THREE
YEARS
BEHIND
THE TIMES.**



**WHEN IT
COMES
TO
BATTLE,
THEIR
WEAPONS
WILL
BREAK!**

**ALL
THEY
HAVE
IS
OUT-
DATED
JUNK!**



**THEY
HAVEN'T
EVEN
SEEN
THE
LIKES
OF THIS!**



IT'S WAR.

CRASH

10

11





LIVING
WITHIN
IT,
AKOYA
HAD
NEVER
SEEN IT
FROM
AFAR.

THERE
WAS A
DARK
SCHEME
IN HER
HOME
VILLAGE.



BUT
NOW
SHE
HAD A
NEW
POINT
OF
VIEW.

NOT
EVEN
ONE.



NOT A
SINGLE
PIECE OF
QUALITY
IRON-
WARE
HAD
GONE TO
THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.

**SHE
KNEW
SHE HAD
TO
FULFILL
HER
MISSION.**

**TAKE
ME TO
YOUR
CHIEF!**

**CHAPTER 5:
THE LOWER CHIEF**

**I WAS SO
BOLD,
BUT NOW
I'M ALL
NERVES.**





SUZUNARI

...

THAT NAME
BRINGS
BACK
MEMORIES.



CRACK

I HEARD
HIS WIFE
PASSED
AWAY
SEVEN
YEARS AGO.
HE HASN'T
VISITED
SINCE.

INDEED
I DO.
HE
OFTEN
CAME
HERE IN
THE
PAST.



YOU
KNOW
MY
FATHER?



SO
WHAT
BRINGS
YOU
HERE?

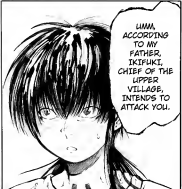
BUT WITH
THE
IRONWARE
THESE
PEOPLE
HAVE, I
GUESS
THEY DON'T
KNOW HOW
GOOD HE'S
BECOME.



MODDED
SEVEN
YEARS AGO,
AND FOUR
YEARS
LATER HE
BECAME
THE BEST
SMITH IN
THE
VILLAGE.



THAT
CAN'T
BE
TRUE.



UNNA,
ACCORDING
TO MY
FATHER,
IKIFUKI,
CHIEF OF THE
UPPER
VILLAGE,
INTENDS TO
ATTACK YOU.



SHOULD
LOOK AT
THE SWORD
I HAVE!

A
FUN
OLD
MAN?

HE'S
A FUN
OLD
MAN.

IKIFUKI IS
AN OLD
FRIEND OF
MINE.

WE VOWED TO
DEFEND THE
VILLAGES
TOGETHER.



HE MAY BE
AN OLD
FRIEND,
BUT HE IS
LYING TO
YOU.



TH-
THOSE
BLADES
...

HE MADE
ME
DELIVER
THEM TO
YOU.



MY
FATHER
MADE
THESE.



I-IT CUT
RIGHT
THROUGH
THEM!

U-
UNCLE!
YOUR
MIGHTY
LOCKS!



THE ORE
SHORTAGE IS
A MYTH.

THE UPPER
VILLAGE HAS
BEEN
STOCKPILING
WEAPONS.

THERE
ARE MANY
MORE OF
SIMILAR
QUALITY
UP THERE.



AND
...

THESE
ARE THE
FINEST
BLADES
IN THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.



THE GIRL
BROKE
NUEZU'S
SWORD
WITH
THIS
KNIFE.

THAT
CAN'T
BE.



GO TO THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.

SPY
ON THEM

YES,
CHIEFY



IMAG



WE NEED
TO FIND
OUT IF
THIS NEW
FORGING
METHOD
IS REAL.



I TRUST
IN THE
FRIEND-
SHIP
OF
IKIFUKI.



BUT...
THEY ARE
FOR YOU.



OF
THESE
THREE
SWORDS,
I
RETURN
TWO.

CHILD
OF
SUZU-
NARI
...

IF YOUR
WORDS PROVE
TRUE, HOWEVER,
I WILL TAKE
ALL THREE
SWORDS.

NO,
NOT
EVEN
HALF.

I ONLY
HALF
DOUBT
HIM.



I SEE.

YES,
CHIEF.

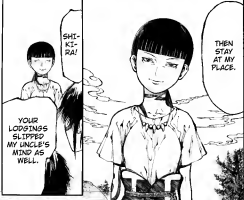


SPEAK NO
MORE OF
THIS.

NO ONE
ELSE NEEDS
TO KNOW.









WHY'S
THAT?

YOU DID
COME AT A
GREAT TIME,
THOUGH,
AKOYA.



THE
FESTIVAL
TO BLESS
THE NEW
PLANTING
WILL
HAPPEN
SOON.



YOU SAY
YOU WISH
TO FIGHT
CHIEF
IKIFUKI?

CHILD
OF
SUZU-
NARI
...

CHAPTER 6:
BEFORE THE FESTIVAL

BUT OLD
LOYALTIES
ALSO
CARRY
WEIGHT.

THE
BLADES
YOU
BRING
CUT
TRUE.

WHAT
SHALL
WE DO
ABOUT
THE
FEST-
IVAL?

SO,
FATHER
...

THE
FESTIVAL
FOR
PLANTING
CROPS IS
COMING
SOON.



YOU'RE
MARRIED,
SHIKIRAY?



MY HUSBAND
IS OUT
HUNTING
FOR MEAT
FOR THE
FESTIVAL.

HE'LL BE
BACK
TOMORROW.



WE OFFER
ANIMALS TO
THE SPIRITS
AND HOLD A
GREAT FEAST
IN HOPES OF
A GOOD
HARVEST.



THE KID
AT THE
PIO
FARM
MADE A
CLAY
FIGURE
OF HIM.



OH
YEAH
...

SHE
LIKES
HARRY
GUY?



YES,
JUST
RECENTLY.

MY
HUSBAND
IS SO
HAIRY
AND
MASCU-
LINE.







H-
HAS
AD-
KAGA
COME
HOME
YET?

THIS
OLD
MAN
WORKS
BRONZE.



H-
HEEY!



LOOK
AT
THAT!

OH?



I-
I'VE
POLISHED
THE
BRONZE
BELL FOR
THE
RITUAL,
YOU SEE.



O-OH?

THAT'S
TOO
BAD.

NO, MY
BROTHER
IS
STILL
OUT.



ANCIENT
BRONZE
ARTIFACTS
ARE OFTEN
A BLUE-
GREEN
COLOR.

BRONZE
IS AN
ALLOY OF
COPPER
AND TIN.

THE BLUE-GREEN
COLOR
SEEN IN
OLD
BRONZE IS
DUE TO
OXIDATION.



HOWEVER,
BRONZE IS
NATURALLY A
GOLDEN HUE.
(THOUGH
DEPENDING
ON THE
AMOUNT OF
TIN, IT CAN
BE
REDDISH,
YELLOWISH
OR WHITTISH.)

T-THE HEROINE
THAT BROKE
RUEZU'S SWORD,
EH?

Y-YOURE AWFULLY
CUTE.

LM

HEHE

HLIH?

THAT
GIRL?

O-OH?
ARE YOU
THAT
GIRL
FROM
THE IRON
VILLAGE?

THIS
IS THE
FIRST
TIME
I'VE
SEEN A
BRONZE
BELL.

IT'S
AS
GOLD
AS A
HEAD
OF RICE.

YEAH.

HE GOT IT
FROM
SOME-
BODY
ELSE,
THOUGH.

YOUR
BROTHER
GAVE
YOU THAT
KNIFE,
OTSUCHI?

I-I WANT TO
W-WORK
WITH
OTSUCHI'S
BROTHER
ACKAGA,
YOU SEE.

I-IM
JUST AN
OLD WHO
FIDDLES
AROUND
WITH
BRONZE.

I'M NOT
SURE
HE AND
I COULD
GET
ALONG.

HE SAID,
"BRONZE IS
COOLER
THAN IRON,
SO TAKE IT,"

AND
GAVE
IT TO
ME.



HE
LIKES
METAL
MORE
THAN
CELEBRA-
TIONS.

WILL
HE BE
BACK IN
TIME
FOR
THE FES-
TIVAL?



HE WENT TO
THE MINO-
HIDA AREA TO
SEARCH FOR
TIN AND LEAD
TO MAKE
BRONZE.

SO
WHERE
IS YOUR
BROTHER
NOW?



AREN'T A
GIRL WHO
LOVES
TALKING
METAL.

CAST
IRON?

SHE
IS
SO
CUTE.

NOT VERY
SUBTLE

NO, WE
CAN'T
MAKE A
FIRE HOT
ENOUGH TO
MELT
IRON, SO
ALL WE
CAN DO
IS FORGE
IT.



Y-YES.

DO YOU
CAST
IRON IN
THE
UPPER
VIL-
LAGE?

DID
YOU
CAST
THAT?





WHERE
DID
YOU
HEAR
THAT,
MOM?

HUH?

I HEAR
YOU'VE
MADE
FRIENDS
WITH A
GIRL
FROM
THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.



DO MY
BEST
AT
WHAT?

DO
YOUR
BEST
AT THE
FEST-
IVAL,
SON.

UH --

EVEN
THE
GIRLS
MAKE
FUN
OF
YOU.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN SUCH
A CRYBABY.
I OFTEN
WONDER IF
A WATER
SPIRIT
LIVES IN
YOUR
EYES.



LOTS OF
YOUNG
PEOPLE
END UP
TOGETHER
AT THE END
OF THE
FESTIVAL.

AND
REMEM-
BERED
THAT THEY
HAVE THE
FESTIVAL
TO BLESS
THE
PLANTING
IN THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.

I
THOUGHT
AND
THOUGHT
AND
THOUGHT
...

PEOPLE
GET
TOGE-
THER
THERE!

I'VE
NEVER
BEEN
BELOW,
BUT WHY
WORRY
ABOUT A
FEST-
IVAL?

SO I
DIDN'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
BEFORE.

AKOYA
WAS
ALWAYS
UP HERE
WHERE I
COULD
SEE HER.

A FEW
MORE
DAYS
WON'T
HURT.

THE
PLAN
HAS
TAKEN
THREE
YEARS.

NO.
I
WILL
DO
IT.

MAKE
SOME-
ONE
ELSE
WATCH!

NO.
WE NEED
TO WATCH
THE
FURNACE
SUZU-
NARE
IS IN.

FATHER,
WE
SHOULD
ATTACK
AT
ONCE!



GO TO
STOP
BEING A
MAIDEN!

ABOUT
ONE
NIGHT
IS ALL
THE
TIME
IT
TAKES



4/4

7

JARAAANG



SHALL I
INVITE
HER TO
DANCE?



OH,
IT'S
YOU,
TSUKI-
SU
...

I HEAR
THE
VILLAGE
HAS A
GUEST,
O CHIEF.

ACROSS THE VILLAGE,
FROM THE MOUNTAIN SHAPED LIKE A SERPENT
ON THE SIDE OF A SMALL HILL.

CHAPTER 7: THE FESTIVAL



... WAS A
PLACE
BE-
TWEEN
THE
WORLD
OF
HUMANS
AND THE
WORLD
OF
SPIRITS.





THE
FESTIVAL
TO BLESS
THE NEW
PLANTING
IS
STARTING.



THAT
DOESN'T
SEEM
SAFE.

THEY'RE
HOLDING IT
TO PROTECT
THE
VILLAGERS.



YOU
THINK
WE ARE
BEING
CARE-
LESS?



LOOKS
LIKE
THEY
DON'T
BELIEVE
ME.



THEY WILL
SIGNAL IF
SOMETHING
IS WRONG.

WE GET
GUARDS
IN THE
VIL-
LAGES
AND THE
FOREST.

THE
FESTIVAL
IS
IMPORTANT,
BUT SO IS
OUR
SAFETY.

HE
REALLY
DOES
LOOK
LIKE
THAT
PICTURE.



OKAY.

YOU CAME
ALL THIS
WAY, SO
LET THE
ADULTS
WORRY
AND JUST
ENJOY THE
FESTIVAL.





THE BELL IS GREEN, SO IT REPRESENTS A SPROUTING RICE STALK.

WHY DID SHE PUT AN OLD BRONZE BELL OVER THE SEED SHE PLANTED?



LIKE A SEED DRAWING NOURISHMENT FROM THE SOIL.

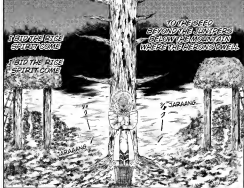


THE SEED IS THAT FROM THE MOST RICE VARIETY

FROM ABOVE, THE BELL LOOKS LIKE A RICE SEED.

THE BELL WILL GATHER ENERGY FROM THE EARTH UNTIL THE END OF THE FESTIVAL.





THEY REPRESENT
THE HERONS.

HERONS RAISE THE
RICE.

THEY COME TO THE
FIELDS, HAVE
THEIR YOUNG, AND
LEAVE DURING THE
HARVEST.

WHO
ARE
THEY?

SO YEARS
WITH A LOT OF
THUNDER ARE
YEARS WITH A
LOT OF RICE.

THE
RICE
SPIRIT
COMES
DOWN
WITH
LIGHT-
NING.

IT IM-
PREG-
NATES
THE
RICE
PLANTS.

THE RICE
SPIRIT
MUST BE
CALLED
DOWN TO
ENSURE
A GOOD
HARVEST.

THE
BIRD IS
THE
RICE
SPIRIT,
AND IT
BRINGS
LIGHT-
NING.

WHEN THE
THUNDER
SPIRIT
COMES TO
EARTH, HE
RIDES IN A
BIRD-
SHAPED
BOAT.



THEY ARE
SHOWING
HOW BIRDS
MATE.

A GOOD
HARVEST
MEANS
REPRO-
DUCTION

UH

UH

WHAT
ARE
THEY
DOING?



HUH?!

MANY MEN
AND WOMEN
ALSO MATE
AT THIS
FESTIVAL.



THIS
FESTIVAL
IS FOR
LIFE
THAT
BEARS
MUCH
FRUIT
AND
MULTI-
PLIES.





IT
SYMBOL-
IZES A
NEW
RICE
STALK.

FROM
THE SEED
SPRINGS
A BLUE-
GREEN
BRONZE
BELL.

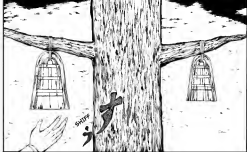
THEY
BRING
THE
RICE
SPIRIT
AND
MATE.

DANCERS
DRESSED
AS
HERONS
FLY IN.

CHAPTER 8:
THE HERON DANCE









SURE

SHALL WE?



SAY,
DARLING



WELL,
GOOD
LUCK,
AKOYA!

WAIT!
SHO-KABAN!



THE
FOOD
IS GOOD.
WANT
SOME?



UH,
HELLO,
THERE



GOODY
BYE-BYE
UH!
TOOOO!

WHAT
IS
THAT?



UH
...
YEAH
...

SO, YOU'RE
FROM THE
UPPER VILLAGE
RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO
TALK WITH YOU.



ALRIGHT

THIS FESTIVAL IS
STUPID!
MY MOM TELLS ME
TO DO MY BEST, AND
THEN SHE SNEAKS
OFF WITH SOME
YOUNG GUY!

UM

...

I'M
FINE.

AREN'T YOU
GONNA
EAT,
OTSU-
GHI?





WON'T
YOU
COME
BE A
HERON?



○
VISITOR
...



COME
AND BE A
FEMALE
HERON.



YOU
SAW
THEM
DANCE,
YES?

A H-H-
HERON?



IT'S NOT HARD.
JUST SWING
YOUR HIPS.

OR YOU CAN
HOLD STILL AND
LET THE MALE DO
HIS THING.

NO WAY!

I-I
CAN'T
DANCE!



WHO
WANTS
TO BE A
MALE
HERON?



THEY
COME
TO THE
FIELDS
FROM THE
SKY, HOME
OF THE
SPIRITS.

HE-
RONS
ARE VISI-
TORS.



PICK
ME!

ME!



FATHER,
HELP ME!



YOU CAN
EVEN DO IT
FOR REAL, IF
YOU'RE IN
THE MOOD.

YOU ARE
PERFECT.
YOU WILL
PROVIDE
THE
VILLAGE
WITH
GREAT
WEALTH.

WH-
WHAT?



YOU CAME
TO THE
FIELDS
FROM THE
MOUNTAIN,
ANOTHER
HOME OF
THE
SPIRITS.

YOU
ARE
A VISI-
TOR, TOO.



O-
OLD
MAN!



A--AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO RAISE
YOUR
HAND?



DO WE HAVE
ANY OTHER
VOLUNTEERS?



W-W-
WHATEVER
YOU DO,
YOU CAN
SHOW
YOUR
MANHOOD
TO HER.



S--SO WHY
DON'T YOU
RAISE YOUR
HAND AND
RESCUE HER?



NO... I'M NOT
LIKE THAT.

BESIDES,
AKOYA
DOESN'T
LOOK TOO
HAPPY.



ANYONE
ELSE
WANT TO
DANCE?





*THIS
PLACE IS
SWARMING
WITH
PESTS.*

PESTS.



*SO WE
MUST BE
RID OF
PESTS.*

*THIS IS A
PLANTING
FESTIVAL.*



*KANA-
MIRO!*



VISITOR (NOUN)

1) A PERSON WHO HAS COME FROM ANOTHER PLACE.

2) A SPIRIT, PERSON OR OTHER ENTITY WHO HAS COME AT A DESTINED TIME.



CHAPTER 9: KANAMURO COMES

THAT
TEMPER
PATTERN...

...IS HE
USING ONE
OF DAD'S
SWORDS?

IT'S...

DAD'S
SWORD...

DAD'S
SWORD...

...PEOPLE...

SHITTING...

HEATING...





LOOKS
LIKE I
WAS A
BIT
SHORT.



YOU
CAN'T
ATTACK
A
PRIEST-
ESS!

IT CUTS
THROUGH
FLESH SO
EASILY!

THAT
SWORD
IS
UNREAL!



HOW
OLD
ARE
YOU
THIS
YEAR?

WAIT,
YOU'RE
STILL A
MAIDEN,
RIGHT?





KANAMUROO!



IS THIS
CHIEF
IKIFUKI'S
DOING??



IS THIS
...
IS THIS
...

YOU
DEVIL!



MY FATHER
WANTED TO
DELAY THE
ATTACK FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE
LONGER.



NO,
I AM
ACTING
ON MY
OWN.



BUT IT
LOOKS AS
THOUGH WE
FEW WILL
HAVE
ALREADY
CONQUERED
YOU
TONIGHT.



TWENTY
AGAINST A
HUNDRED.

STOP
FOOL-
ING
AROUND
AND
MOVE!



ROUND
THEM
UP!



IF YOU
SURRENDER,
YOU MAY
SERVE US!

IF YOU
DON'T, YOU
WILL DIE!



SOME OF
THE
LOOKOUTS
WERE
GOOD, BUT
OTHERS
WERE POOR
CHOICES.



THAT'S A
SUZU-
NARI
BLADE!



H
R
A
A
A
A
!



I
ADMIRE
YOUR
SPIRIT

BUT I
KNOW
YOU
HAVE A
BAD
LEG.



BRING
IKIFUKI
TO ME!

HE HAS
MUCH TO
EXPLAIN!

SO YOU
HAVE
ONE,
TOO,
ONAGA?



EVEN A
SUZUNARI
SWORD IS
ONLY AS
GOOD AS
THE MAN
THAT
HOLDS IT.



IT'
THUMP



AH,
AKOYA.

KANAMUROOOO!



WHERE
IS MY
FATHER?!

YOU
COME
WITH
ARMS?!

YOU
COME
TO
BRING
WAR?!

NRAAH!





GO
TO
HELL!

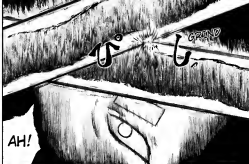
CLANG



**CHAPTER 10:
VISITORS**

**GO
TO
HELL!**

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AH!



MINE IS
THE
SEVENTH
OF SUZU-
MARI'S
FINAL
BATCH!



IS IT
BE-
CAUSE
HER
SWORD
IS
NEW-
ER?

SHE'S
BEAT-
ING
ME?



...HE PUT
MORE
EFFORT
INTO HIS
WORK!



PERHAPS
AS THE
SMITH'S
DOUBTS
IN THE
VILLAGE
GREW...





AH?



I WILL
CRUSH
YOU
LIKE-



STOP,
OR WE
KILL
THE
WOMEN!

GOD!



B-BUT
THERE
ARE
MORE
OF US!

THEIR
IRON
IS
TOO
HARD!



SPLOOTON



WE CAN'T
FIGHT!

THEIR
WEAPONS ARE
TOO STRONG,
AND THEY
TOOK US BY
SURPRISE!

...
YOU
HAD
TOO
FEW
MEN TO
FIGHT.

EVEN
IF
YOU
HAD
EQUAL
ARMS
...



...
HER
EXPRES-
SION
CRIED
OUT TO
HER
FATHER.

WHEN
AKOYA
WAS
FORCED
TO BE
A
HERON
...

BRING THE
MEN WHO
WERE AROUND
AKOYA AND
THE PRIEST-
ESS.



H
S
S
S

NOW I
HAVE ONE
OF THE
SWORDS
AKOYA
BROUGHT.



...TO BE
RID OF
YOU
PESTS!

IN
HIS
STEAD,
I WILL
USE
HIS
BLADE
...



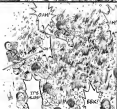
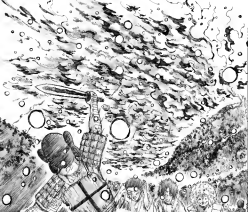
H
S
S
S
S

H
S
S
S
S



**KEEP
YOUR
DIRTY
HANDS
OFF OF MY
FATHER'S
SWORD!**







**RUN
INTO
THE
HAIL!**



**COVER
YOUR
HEADS!**

**MEN,
FORM
A
WALL!**

OW!

**IT'S
RIP-
ENOUGH
TO
KILL!**



**THE ENEMY
SOLDIERS
WILL BREAK,
STARTING
UPWARD,
AND MOVE
DOWN THE
MOUNTAIN!**



**DO
IT!**

**IT'S
AN
OR-
DER!**



**STOP
RUNNING
LIKE A
DEVIL
IS ON
YOUR
HEELS!**

HUNT!

HEY! WAIT!



WE
WERE
WAIT-
ING
FOR A
CLEAN
SHOT.



HOW DID
THE MEN
CLEARING
THEM OUT
MISS
THEM?



THERE
ARE
ARCHERS
IN THE
WOODS!

YOU TURN
AGAINST US
FOR A GIRL!



GROOHI
MOUNTAIN!

WE
CAN'T!

THE
WIND
AND
HAIL
ARE TOO
STRONG!



RE-
TURN
PERF!



HN?!



KANA-
MURO,
IT'S A
SIGNAL
FROM
THE
VIL-
LAGE!

IT
SAYS
TO
RETURN
AT
ONCE!

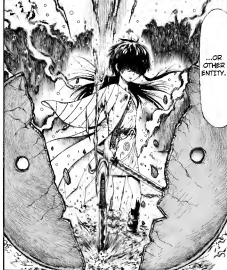


THERE
GOES
THE
SWORD
THE
CHIEF
HELD!



SPANG





...OR
OTHER
ENTITY.



AND
SHE IS
LOVED
BY THE
MOUN-
TAIN.

SHE
CAME
IN A
TIME
OF
NEED.



MY
DAD'S
SWORD

A
BROOD-
ER
SWORD

THE
BROOD-
ER
SWORD

TRANSLATION BY AARON DOBSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSA NUSS (VTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

IT WASN'T AS GOOD AS THE OTHERS.



IT WAS
BETTER
THAN
ANY
OTHER
SWORD

DAD...



CHAPTER 11: AFTER THE HAIL



I
THOUGHT
MAYBE
HE'D
LOOK
AT
ME.

HMM?



...WAS
ONE
OF MY
FAVORITES.

THAT
SWORD.



HEH
HEH!

HEE
HEE
HEE!

HMM...





EH?!



BACK HOME!



THERE
IS A TIME
FOR
RETURNING,
VISITOR.



...YOU
HAVE TO
CHOOSE
THE
RIGHT
COURSE
BEFORE
RUNNING.

FOR
YOUR
ACTIONS
TO
BEAR
FRUIT....



WHERE
ARE
YOU
GOING?



TO SEE IF
KANAMURO'S
WORDS
ARE TRUE?
FOR
REVENGE?

BUT
MY
FATHER?



THE
OROCHI
MOUNTAIN
LOOKS
TIRED.



IT
CAN'T DO
SO MUCH
NOW,
EVEN TO
HELP YOU.

IT IS
MIGHTY,
BUT IT
IS A
WOUNDED
SERPENT.



IT
SHOWED
OFF BY
MAKING
IT HAIL
FAR
FROM ITS
BODY.



I'M
SURE
OUR CHIEF
NOW HAS
THE
WILL TO
FIGHT.

IF YOU
WAIT,
WE CAN
AID
YOU.



WAIT
TO GO
HOME.



IT IS
AS YOU
AND
SUZUNARI
SAID.

FORGIVE
ME.



WE
OWE
YOU AND
YOUR
FATHER.

DO
NOT
LEAVE
HERE
YET.



SO,
PLEASE,
LISTEN.



WE
WILL SEE
YOUR
FATHER
AVENGED..

SO
WE WILL
PROTECT
YOU,
DAUGHTER
OF
SUZUNARI.





THEIR
IRON
IS
TOO
HARD
...



SHATTER

DAD! DAD MUST BE... NO! DO I STOP? DO I STOP? WHERE IS MY DAD?
TO THE VILLAGE... DAD... I TOLD HIM NOT TO DO ANYTHING CRAZY... BUT DAD... NO!

THIS VILLAGE'S AID?

EVEN A SUZUNARI SWORD IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE MAN THAT HOLDS IT.



I FEEL... ANGRY...

...YOU HAD TOO FEW MEN TO FIGHT.

I WANT TO GO!

DON'T...

LET ME GO!

THEY KNEW NOTHING OF DAD'S WORK!

DON'T STOP ME!

REMEMBER...

DAD!

WHY AM I HERE?



KEEP YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF OF MY FATHER'S SWORD!



AH!



WII
OY!!

SLAM

X'X



WH-

WHOO-
OOA!

EH?!



HUH?
THE
TREE
JUST...



HA
HA!



Y' WHUMP

W



AREN'T
YOU A
GUARD
HERE?

SAN-
SE??

WELL,
JUST
BEFORE
THAT HAIL
STORM...



OOF!

CREAK

WUFF!

CREAK

GAH!





YOU
WANT
A
HAND?



SO
HOW
ABOUT
IT?



WE
WILL
GO AS
FAR AS
YOU
WANT.

...WE
WILL
TAKE
YOU
THERE.



MY
DAD,
MY
BRO,
EVERY-
ONE.

WE
DO HAVE
STRENGTH
TO
OFFER.



IF
YOU
WANT TO
FEED
THEM
SOME
IRON...

THE
REAL
FIGHT
STARTS
HERE.



FROM BELOW,
WE COULDN'T
SEE THE GROUP
THAT
INVADED THE
FESTIVAL.

THEY
WERE FEW,
SO THEY
MOVED
EASILY WITH
STEALTH.

EXTRACT ONLY
OF THE LARGEST CHAPTER

HINOHOZE

TRANSLATION BY AARON DOUGLAS
ADAPTATION BY JESSIE NORD (INTA)
SKY IMPRINT, INC.

MEET-
DAG

CHAPTER 12: THE MUSTER

DO
YOU
WANT
TO GO
THAT
EARLY?

IF YOU
WANT TO
GO NOW,
YOU'LL
HAVE TO
GO
THROUGH
ME.

I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
DAG
THOUGH.

SO HERE
I'LL
BE
IN THE
LOWER
VILLAGE.

SECOND CHILD OF THE GUEST

SANSE

HOW
DID THEY
KNOW
WHERE
THEY
WERE?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW ALL
THE
LOOKOUTS
WERE
KILLED.

ALONG DEPTHS OF
THE CREEK

TOBA

KANAMURO
HAS A
SUPERNATURAL
SENSE OF
SMELL.
THAT IS
HOW HE
CAUGHT
THEM.

NO.

HANI

MAYBE
THEY
WENT
EARLY
AND
TRACKED
THEM?

SO
HOW COME
HE DIDN'T
FIND
HANI
AND
SHIKIRA?

HUH?

...I
WONDERED
HOW HE
WAS
ABLE TO
JUMP OUT
IN FRONT
OF ME SO
MUCH.

DIDN'T
YOU
KNOW?

EH?!



HANY



SHIKIRA

WELL,
HANI
SMELLS
JUST
LIKE A
BEAST!



I'M
GOING
TO
CHOKE!

AH!



RUB
AGAINST
ME!

UNDER-
STOOD.
THAT'S
ENOUGH.

TO
COVER
THE
SMELL
OF IRON,
WE
RUBBED
OUR
ARROWS
ALL
OVER
HARE,
AND—

MUST
BE
A
WEASEL.

POP

CRILE

I
HAD
A
HUNCH
EVER
SINCE
I WAS
A KID.

DID
YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
KANA-
MURO'S
NOSE?

KANA
TAKI
NOCHO
IS
VERY
VERY

OH,
SO YOU
MADE ME
WEAR
A FUR CLOAK
TO COVER UP
MY SCENT,
BROTHER?

THAT
BASTARD.

HIDING
YOUR
SKILLS
HAD ITS
BENEFITS,
AFTERALL.

DOING
YOUR
BEST
TO
HIDE
YOUR
TALENT

HE HED
HIS
TALENT,
THOUGH.



LOWER VILLAGE CHIEF

ONAGA

IF IT
COMES
TO
WAR...



UM,
YEAH,
30
OR 40
SOUNDS
ABOUT
RIGHT...

THAT MEANS
50 MEN,
50 30 OR
40 MINUS
CHILDREN
AND
ELDER5?

UH,
YE-
AH.

...THE
UPPER
VILLAGE
HAS
AROUND
100 PEOPLE,
AKOYA?



WE MAY
OUT-
NUMBER
THEM
BY A
HANDFUL.

BE THAT
AS IT MAY,
WE'LL BE
FACING
FIFTY FOES
AT MOST.

THERE
MAY BE
FIGHTING
WOMEN,
TOO.



WE
WON'T
WIN.

THEY CAN
SEE US
FROM ABOVE.
THEY HAVE
THE
TERRAIN,
KANABURO'S
NOSE
AND MUCH
BETTER
WEAPONS.



SHOULD
WE
JUST
ASSAULT
THEM?

IF WE
CHARGE
IN,
WE CAN
PUSH
THEM
DOWN
IN A
SNAP.



WE'LL
WORK
THE
FIELDS
CLOSER
TO THE
VILLAGE.

PUT
SHARP
EYES
IN
THE
WATCH
TOWER.



WE
NEED
TO
START
PLANTING
SOON.

SO
THIS
IS A
WAITING
GAME?



I
IMAGINE
THEY'LL
MOVE
QUICKLY.

THEY DON'T
PRODUCE
MUCH OF
THEIR
OWN FOOD,
AND
WILL WANT
TO SECURE
WHAT
THEY HAVE.

KANAMIRO
HAD
ONE
OF HIS
BLADES.
ARE
THERE
MORE
ABOVE?

THAT
MEANS
FOUR
MORE

SUZU-
MARI'S
WORK...

PRESTIGE
TSUKUSO

**SIX
OF
THEM?!**

THERE
ARE
SIX OF
HIS
SWORDS
IN THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.

MINUS
THE
ONE
THAT
BROKE
AT THE
FEST-
IVAL...

ONLY
SIX
LEFT!

ONLY
SIX
LEFT!



IT WASN'T
AS GOOD
AS THE
OTHERS.

THE
SPELL
ON
SWORD



SWORD
WAS
A
SWORD

A
SWORD
WAS
A
SWORD

HE KNEW
IRON
HAD A
SPELL
OVER ME.



HEY,
SUZU-
MARI.



I
THOUGHT
I
SAW
DISTRUST
IN
HIS
EYE.

CHIEF?

...I
CANNOT
SPURN
IT.

BUT
STILL...

I KNEW
THIS
BLADE
WOULD BE
STAINED
WITH
GRIEF.

I
COULD
SEE
THAT.

OUR
DAYS
TOGETHER
WERE
NUMBERED.





IT
BROKE.



...THERE
ARE
ONLY
NINE
LEFT!

EVEN
WITH
THE
THREE
BELOW...





**BREAKING
SUZUNARI'S
WORD?!
ATTACKING
ON YOUR
OWN?!**

**YOU
LIT-
TLE
DOG!**

CHAPTER 13: MOTHERS

TRANSLATION BY AARON GOODSON
SCRIPTATION BY JESSIE NUBS (JNTD)
COVERING THE

**WITHOUT
HER, THE
WIND WON'T
BLOW!
WITHOUT
WIND,
WE CAN'T
SMELT IRON!**

**BUT
WE
NEED
AKOYA!**

**YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
KILLED
HER DAD!
YOU
STARTED
IT!**

**YOU
MADE
HER MAD
AND THE
MOUNTAIN
SPIRIT
MADE IT
HAIL!**

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND SITUATIONS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY.





LET US
OFFER
AKOYA
TO THE
MOUNTAIN
SPIRIT.



WE WILL
BRING
HER BACK
ALIVE AND
MARRY HER
TO THE
MOUNTAIN
SPIRIT.

PLEASE
DO NOT
INTER-
FERE
WITH
OUR
BATTLE.



WE'LL
PUT
HER
INTO
THE
MOUNT-
AIN.

SHE
IS NOT
WHAT'S
IMPORT-
ANT.



AS
SISTERS,
WE ARE
BLESS-ED
TO BOTH
BE MARRIED
TO CHIEF
IKIPLUKI.



**AKOYA
IS
MY
BRIDE-
TO-
BE!**

**STOP
THAT
TALK,
MOTH-
ERS!**



CALM
DOWN.

CALM
DOWN.

CALM
DOWN.

THIS
IS
FOR
BREAKING
SUZU-
NARI'S
SWORD!

WE HAVE
A PLAN
TO
SOOTHE
THE
MOUNTAIN
SPIRIT.

IF
IT
COMES
TO
THAT.

IF
AKOYA
WANTS
TO
KILL US,
WE
SHOULD
FIGHT
HER.

BUT
WILL
THE
MOUNTAIN
SPIRIT
LISTEN?

BUT
THEY
WON'T
BE
ENOUGH.
WE
NEED
MORE.

SPEARS
AND
BOWS
ARE
FINE.

WHAT
SHOULD
WE
DO?

IN
WAR,
DEFENSE
IS
KEY.









**ALL-
IES!**

THEY
WANT
TO TAKE
OVER
AFTER
OTHERS
HAVE
STARTED.



WE
THOUGHT
OF
HIDING
THE
UPPER
VILLAGE
PROBLEM
FROM
HER.



YOU
STILL
HELD A
FESTIVAL
AT A
TIME
LIKE
THIS?



ACTUALLY...



HMM...

IF THEY TAKE
OVER, THEY'LL
KEEP ALL THE
UPPER VILLAGE'S
IRON FOR
THEMSELVES.
WHO KNOWS
IF YOU COULD
RETURN?



CHAPTER 14: SWORD BEARERS

I
NEVER
THOUGHT
OF IT.

JUST
A LITTLE
WHILE
AGO...

JUST
A WHILE
AGO...



TRANSLATION BY MICH DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSIE MILES (JYU)
DOKI JAPANESE INC.

THAT
SENSATION.



THAT
FEELING



WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
TO
ME?

IS
MY
DAD
REALLY
DEAD?

WILL
MY
FRIENDS
STILL
BE
ALIVE?

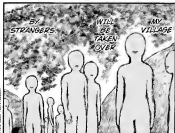
WHEN
THIS
WAR
IS
OVER,
WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
TO
THE
UPPER
VILLAGE?

IT
TWISTS
ME
INSIDE
TERRIBLY.

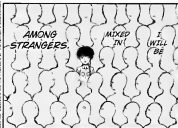
IS
CHANGING
INTO
SOMETHING
ELSE.

THE
VILLAGE
I
WAS
BORN
AND
RAISED
IN.



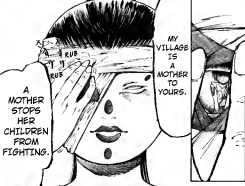


IF THEY
TAKE OVER,
THEY'LL
KEEP ALL
THE UPPER
VILLAGE'S
IRON
FOR
THEMSELVES



AS A
SKILLED
WORKER,
SHE MIGHT
BE TAKEN
IN.





A
MOTHER
STOPS
HER
CHILDREN
FROM
FIGHTING.

MY
VILLAGE
IS
A
MOTHER
TO
YOURS.



...I
WILL



YOU
WILL
ACCEPT
THESE
ALLIES?



...
AND
...



...
YBS,
MA'AM.

THEN I WILL
LEAVE FOR
MY HOME
AS SOON AS
I AM READY.
HANI,
PROTECT ME
ALONG THE
WAY.



HINO-
HOZE,
YOU
WILL
COME
AS
WELL.

HAI?



HEY,
I
CAN
DO
THAT.



BUT WE
NEED
SOMEONE
WITH
AUTHORITY
TO EXPLAIN IN
ONAGA'S
PLACE.

THE
CHIEF
COULD NOT
LEAVE
THE
VILLAGE
HIMSELF.



IF
THERE
IS AN
ATTACK,
HE MAY
HESITATE
TO DRAW
HIS
BOW.

ONAGA
IS
TOO
GENTLE.

NO,
YOU
MUST
STAY
BEHIND.



ONLY
YOU,
MY
HUSBAND.

IF
THAT
HAPPENS,
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE
WHO CAN
PUSH
THE
CHIEF.



HE IS
NEXT IN
LINE TO
BECOME
CHIEF.

HINO-
HOZE
IS A
HOST-
AGE.



SHE
SUSPECTS
WE ARE
WORKING
WITH THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.



SHE IS
PREPARED
TO BE
THROWN
AWAY
BY HER
FAMILY.

IT
IS A
JUST
CAUSE
TO
RULE
US.



IT
GIVES
THEM
MORE
REASON
TO
ATTACK.

TAKING
A
HOSTAGE
MAKES
US A
THREAT
TO
HER
VILLAGE.

...I AM
NOT
PREPARED
TO BE
THROWN
AWAY
EITHER.

DO
YOU
THINK...

VERY
WELL.

I'LL
GO
WITH
YOU.

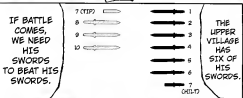
FINE.

AND
SIS
IS
TOO
YOUNG.

I'M
NOT
OUT
OUT
TO BE
CHIEF.

...SINCE
YOU
OR SIS
WILL
BE THE
NEXT
CHIEF.

IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS
TO ME





ALL
RIGHT
THEN.
WHO WILL
IT BE?



LET'S
DECIDE
WHO GETS
SUZUNARI'S
SWORDS!





SUZUNARI'S
SWORDS
GO TO
YOU.



SO YOU
WILL
CARRY
OUR
FINEST
WEAPONS.

YOU
ARE THE
CHAMPIONS
OF THE
UPPER
VILLAGE.



**I
DON'T
WANT
TO
GIVE
THEM
UP!**



**FATHER!
WHAT
ABOUT
ME?**

**LISTEN UP!
BE CAREFUL
WITH
THEM!
DON'T LOSE
THEM!**



**YOU
GET THE
BROKEN
ONE!**